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Letter dated 2 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the information of the Republic of Belarus on the contribution of Belarus to the strengthening of global nuclear security (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

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Annex to the letter dated 2 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

The contribution of Belarus to strengthening global nuclear security

Nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious and pernicious threats facing the world today, representing a challenge that requires a coordinated international response in order to prevent nuclear material from falling into the hands of terrorists.

Belarus is a responsible and consistent partner in efforts to counter nuclear terrorism and to maintain the security of nuclear material. It actively participates in all relevant international mechanisms, and rigorously fulfils all of its international obligations.

Belarus is a party to all major international agreements and instruments aimed at countering nuclear terrorism. In 1993, Belarus completed the process of succession to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and in 2007 it ratified the United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Belarus supported the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and in 2004 and 2005 it submitted reports to the Council on measures adopted at the national level towards that end. Currently, Belarus, with the assistance of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), is establishing a framework or "road map" for the further implementation of the resolution.

Since 2009, Belarus has participated in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), which aims to develop the infrastructure needed to account for and ensure the physical protection of nuclear and radioactive material, to enhance the capacity to detect and investigate instances of nuclear smuggling, and to increase the protection of civilian nuclear sites.

As a country which possesses a significant amount of nuclear material, Belarus devotes considerable attention to the realization of concrete and practical steps to ensure nuclear security at the national level. Belarus was the first country in the world to voluntarily give up the nuclear weapons located on its territory, and it acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear State. In accordance with its obligations under that Treaty, Belarus concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). All nuclear material located in Belarus is covered by those IAEA safeguards.

In 2000 and 2009, Belarus hosted IAEA advisory missions relating to physical protection, and it has fully implemented their recommendations. It has worked with IAEA to formulate and implement a 2011-2013 interregional plan for the physical protection of nuclear material. Technical assistance projects aimed at strengthening the physical safety of nuclear material located in the country are likewise being implemented.

Having made significant contributions to the strengthening of international security as a whole, and to countering the threat of international nuclear terrorism in particular, Belarus welcomes the efforts and initiatives of other States in this sphere.